

The Tragedie of Hamlet

excellent differences, of very soft society, and great showing: indeede to speake sellingly of him, hee is the card or kalender of gentry: for you shall find in him the continent of what part a Gentleman would see.

Ham. Sir, his definement suffers no perdition in you, though I know to deuide him inuentorially, would dazzie th'arithmaticke of memory, and yet but raw neither, in respect of his quick faile, but in the veritie of extolment, I take him to be a soule of great article, & his infusion of such dearch and rarenesse, as to make true dixon of him, his semblable is his mirrour, & who els would trace him, his vmbrage, nothing more.

Cour. Your Lordship speakes most infallibly of him.

Ham. The concernancy sir, why doe we wrap the gentleman in our more rawer breath?

Cour. Sir.

Hor. Ist not possible to vnderstand in another tongue, you will doo't sir really.

Ham. What imports the nomination of this gentleman.

Cour. Of *Laertes*.

Hor. His purse is empty already, all's golden words are spent.

Ham. Of him sir.

Cour. I know you are not ignorant.

Ham. I would you did sir, yet in faith if you did, it would not much approoue me, well sir.

Cour. You are not ignorant of what excellence *Laertes* is.

Ham. I dare not confesse that, least I should compare with him in excellence, but to know a man wel, were to knowe himselfe.

Cour. I meane sir for this weapon, but in the imputation laide on him, by them in his meed, hee's vnfellowed.

Ham. What's his weapon?

Cour. Rapier and Dagger.

Ham. That's two of his weapons, but well.

Cour. The King sir hath wagerd with him six Barbary horses, againgt the which hee has impaund as I take it six French Rapiers and Poyiards, with their assignes, as girdle, hanger and so. Three of the carriages in faith, are very deare to fancy, very reponsiue to the hilts, most delicate carriages, and of very liberall conceit.

Ham. What call you the carriages?

Hor. I knew you must be edified by the margent ere you had done.

Prince of Denmarke.

done.

Cour. The carriage sir are the hangers.

Ham. The phrase would bee more Ierman to the matter if wee could carry a cannon by our sides, I would it be might hangers till then, but on, six Barbry horses against six French swords their assignes, and three liberall conceited carriages, that's the French bet against the Danish, why is this all you call it?

Cour. The King sir, hath layd sir, that in a dozen passes betweene your selfe and him, hee shall not exceede you three hits, hee hath layd on twelue for nine, and it would come to immediate triall, if your Lordshippe would vouchsafe the answer.

Ham. How if I answere no?

Cour. I meane my Lord the opposition of your person in triall.

Ham. Sir I will walke heere in the hall, if it please his Maiestie, it is the breathing time of day with me, let the foiles be brought, the Gentleman willing, and the King hold his purpose; I will winne for him and I can, if not, I will gaine nothing but my shame, and the odde hits.

Cour. Shall I deliuer you so?

Ham. To this effect sir, after what flourish your nature will.

Cour. I commend my duty to your Lordshippe.

Ham. Yours doo's well to commend it himselfe, there are no tongues els for's turne.

Hor. This Lapwing runnes away with the shell on his head.

Ham. A did so sir with his dugg before a suckt it, thus has he and many more of the same breede that I know the drossly age dotes on, only got the tune of the time, and out of an habit of incounter, a kind of hifty collection, which carries them through and through the most prophane and trennowed opinions, and doe but blowe them to their triall, the bubbles are out.

Enter a Lord.

Lord. My Lord, his Maiestie commended him to you by young *Ostrikke*, who brings backe to him that you attend him in the hall, he sends to know if your pleasure hold to play with *Laertes*, or that you will take longer time?

Ham. I am constant to my purposes, they followe the Kings pleasure, if his fitnes speakes, mine is ready: now or whensoever, provided I be so able as now.

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Lord.